

**Santa Fe Mineral Estate Acquisition**  
**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
**DNA-AZ-130-2005-0039**

U.S. Department of the Interior — Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

---

**Note:** This worksheet is to be completed consistent with the policies stated in the Instruction Memorandum entitled "Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy" transmitting this worksheet and the "Guidelines for Using the DNA Worksheet" located at the end of the worksheet. (Note: The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision.)

**A. BLM Office: Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument AZ-130 Case File No. AZA-31929**

**Proposed Action Title/Type: Santa Fe Mineral Estate Acquisition**

**Location of Proposed Action:** Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (legal desc./map attached)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Purchase privately held mineral estate within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument as shown on the attached map and legal description. Santa Fe owns approximately 54,918.84 acres of subsurface mineral estate within the GCPNM. The majority of privately held mineral estate is within the BLM administered portion of the Monument with nearly 17,000 acres being under NPS jurisdiction. The BLM Interim Management Policy for National Monuments directs consideration of land and land interest acquisitions and land exchanges that will enhance the values of the Monument and support the overriding purpose of protecting the scientific and historic objects described in the Proclamation. Purchase would be funded by reprogrammed LWCF appropriations. Mineral estate would be acquired on both BLM and NPS administered land within the Monument.

**Applicant:** Newmont Realty Company acting on behalf of Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company (Santa Fe)

**B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans**

LUP Name:\* Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/EIS Approved: January 1992 & Amendment 1998

LUP Name:\* Land Protection Plan for Lake Mead National Recreation Area Approved: December 28, 1987

LUP Name:\* Lake Mead General Management Plan/Final EIS FES-86-27 Approved: 1986

Other document:\*\* Interim Management Policy for BLM National Monuments and National Conservation Areas Approved: October 4, 2001

Other document:\*\* Managing "Remoteness" on the Arizona Strip Approved: June 22, 1994

\*List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).

\*\*List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

LR(GMP)56 – Subsurface rights on Shivwits Plateau would be acquired.

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:

LR07 – Subsurface estate would be acquired where BLM manages the surface.

LR33 – On lands not identified for disposal, BLM would retain the federal subsurface mineral estate and acquire through exchange the non-federal subsurface estate on existing split-estate public lands or on lands proposed for acquisition.

LR(PIMG)59b – Land or easement acquisitions and land exchanges that would enhance the values of the

monument would be considered.

**C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action:

Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/EIS, Approved Jan. 1992 & Amendment 1998

Land Protection Plan for Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Approved Dec. 28, 1987

Lake Mead General Management Plan/Final EIS FES-86-27, Approved 1986

Interim Management Policy for BLM National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, dated October 4, 2001.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard's assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report):

Managing "Remoteness" on the Arizona Strip, Approved June 22, 1994.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Yes.

Documentation of answer and explanation: The Lake Mead GMP specifically addresses acquisition of subsurface mineral estate on the Shivwits Plateau which is that part of the proposed acquisition located on NPS administered land. The Arizona Strip District RMP/EIS Proposed Plan (pg. II-7) states that on lands not identified for disposal BLM would acquire the non-federal subsurface estate on existing split-estate lands. The subsurface estate proposed for acquisition is the same action described in the Plan. In addition, the Interim Management Policy for Monuments provides for acquisition of inholdings.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances? Yes.

Documentation of answer and explanation: Four alternatives for managing the resources were considered in the development of the Arizona Strip District RMP/EIS. The Preferred Alternative which emphasized protection of fragile and unique resources and production and development of renewable and nonrenewable resources is still appropriate with respect to the current proposed action and current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances. In addition, the Lake Mead GMP specified protection of park resources and allowances for resource utilization in concert with the park enabling legislation. The GMP analyzed various land use zoning and resource use, including minerals management, across four alternatives. It specifically addresses acquisition of the subsurface mineral estate on the Shivwits Plateau in the Preferred Alternative. In addition, the GMP's Preferred Alternative, in concert with mineral rights acquisition, zoned the entirety of the Shivwits Plateau within Natural or Historic/Archeological Zones which are still appropriate for management under the Monument Proclamation and the park enabling legislation.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action? Yes.

Documentation of answer and explanation: Since completion of the Arizona Strip RMP/EIS in 1992 and the Lake Mead GMP in 1986, the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was designated encompassing both BLM and NPS administered land. A management plan for the Monument is currently in progress and documents that the acquisition of the subsurface estate within the Monument remains important to protect the resources for which the Monument was established.

In the document, Managing “Remoteness” on the Arizona Strip, the majority of the area proposed for mineral acquisition is identified as Zone 4 – Primitive Passages. Zone 4 – Primitive Passages is predominately natural with human modifications occasionally evident or not present; most visitor impacts recover annually and are typically associated with very light use in concentration areas such as campsites; other resource-user impacts are either nonexistent or dispersed, seldom seen, generally permanent, and typically associated with rural, commodity uses; opportunities for solitude are excellent to outstanding; and the degree of challenge and risk is high to very high with the general level of contacts or encounters with others being very low. This analysis of the area is still applicable in light of Monument designation.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action? Yes.

Documentation of answer and explanation: Similar methodology and analytical approach are being used for completion of the draft Monument plan currently in progress as were used in the Arizona Strip District RMP/EIS approved in 1992 and the Lake Mead GMP approved in 1986.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Yes. Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action? Yes.

Documentation of answer and explanation: The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed subsurface acquisition are substantially unchanged from those identified in the Arizona Strip District RMP/EIS and Lake Mead GMP. In summary, acquisition of subsurface estate would further consolidate blocks of public lands allowing for more efficient and consistent management of resources. Acquisition of private inholdings by BLM could provide benefits to all resource programs and the public. Acquired resource values would be managed in accordance with the Interim Management Policy for Monuments and the Monument Plan, once completed.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Yes.

Documentation of answer and explanation: Cumulative impacts include the impact to the environment which results from the incremental changes from various actions when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable changes or result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. The acquisition of subsurface estate within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument would eliminate any threat of development of minerals within the Monument. No physical impacts to the Monument would occur from acquisition of the subsurface estate. Therefore, the cumulative impacts that would result from acquisition of the privately held subsurface estate as proposed are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing BLM and NPS Management Plans.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? Yes.

Documentation of answer and explanation: The public involvement and interagency reviews associated with the existing BLM and NPS Management Plans are adequate for the proposed subsurface acquisition. The public was exposed to and commented on the Draft and Proposed Arizona Strip District RMP/EIS. Over 450 people commented in writing on the Draft and numerous people attended a series of open houses or other meetings to express opinions or ask questions. The NPS conducted seven public meetings on the Draft and Proposed Lake Mead National Recreation Area GMP/EIS. Numerous comments from the public, interest groups, and government agencies were analyzed and incorporated into the final Plan decisions. Local newspapers also published articles about the plan. The BLM, Arizona Strip Field Office and NPS, Lake Mead National Recreation Area have cooperatively held several meetings with Santa Fe representatives to lay out an action plan for acquiring the above mentioned subsurface estate. The Draft Monument Management Plan currently in progress also provides for the acquisition of privately held inholdings within the Monument.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Gloria Benson	Native American Coordinator
Rody Cox	Geology/Minerals
Tom Folks	Recreation
Laurie Ford	Lands/Realty/Minerals
Michael Herder	Wildlife
John Herron	Cultural
Lee Hughes	Plants
Ray Klein	GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Linda Price	S&G
Bob Sandberg	Range
Richard Spotts	Environmental Coordinator
Ron Wadsworth	Supervisory Law Enforcement
Dennis Curtis	GCPNM BLM Manager
Jeff Bradybaugh	Acting GCPNM NPS Superintendent

**F. Mitigation Measures:** List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented. - N/A

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA. Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
GCPNM BLM Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
GCPNM NPS Superintendent

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# SANTA FE MINERAL ACQUISITION - LEGAL DESCRIPTION

## Gila and Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

Acres

<b>T. 30 N., R. 11 W.,</b>	
sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;*	640.08
sec. 15;*	640.00
sec. 33.*	640.00
<b>T. 31 N., R. 11 W.,</b>	
sec. 1;*	640.80
sec. 3;*	639.60
sec. 5;*	640.32
sec. 7;*	630.56
sec. 9, N1/2, SE1/4, N1/2SW1/4, and SW1/4SW1/4;*	600.00
sec. 11;*	640.00
sec. 13;*	640.00
sec. 15;	640.00
sec. 19, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2W1/2, and E1/2;*	629.84
sec. 23;*	640.00
sec. 27.*	640.00
<b>T. 31 N., R. 12 W.,</b>	
sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;*	640.80
sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;*	640.64
sec. 5, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;*	639.92
sec. 7, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2W1/2, and E1/2;*	628.44
sec. 11;*	640.00
sec. 13.*	640.00
<b>T. 31 N., R. 13 W.,</b>	
sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;*	641.12
sec. 13.*	640.00
<b>T. 32 N., R. 11 W.,</b>	
sec. 17;**	640.00
sec. 19, lots 1 and 4, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;**	552.86
sec. 21;**	640.00
sec. 25; [W1/2W1/2SW1/4SE1/4(10 ac) and W1/2NW1/4NE1/4(20 ac) surface is private within LMNRA?]**	640.00
sec. 27;**	640.00
sec. 29;**	640.00
sec. 31, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;**	625.76
sec. 33;**	640.00
sec. 35.**	640.00
<b>T. 32 N., R. 12 W.,</b>	
sec. 5, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;**	638.16
sec. 7, lots 3 and 4, E1/2, and E1/2SW1/2;**	471.93
sec. 17;**	640.00
sec. 19, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;**	625.72
sec. 25;*	640.00
sec. 27;*	640.00
sec. 29;*	640.00
sec. 31, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;*	625.12
sec. 33;*	640.00
sec. 35.*	640.00

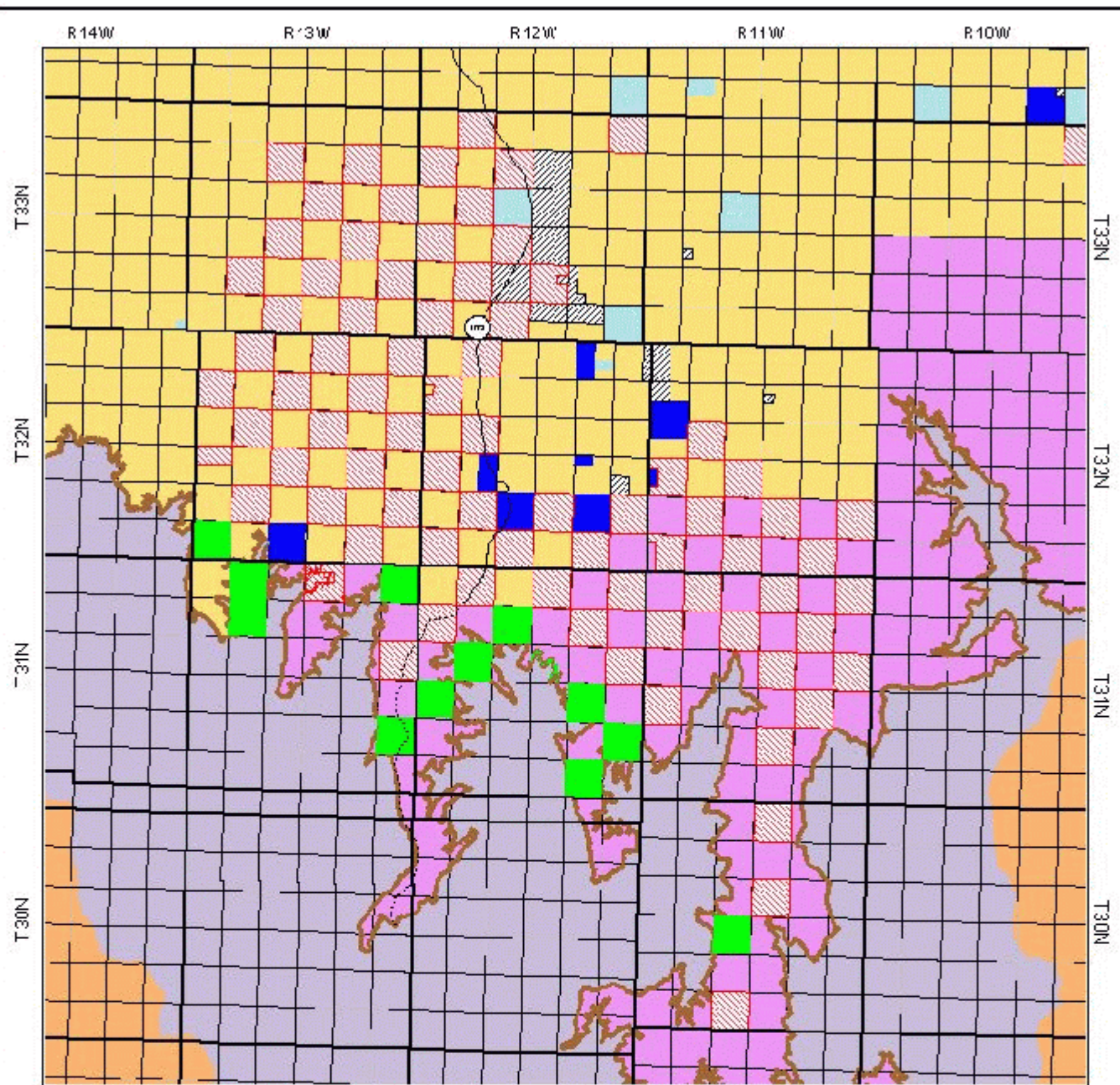
**Gila and Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona****Acres**

<b>T. 32 N., R. 13 W.,</b>	
sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2, and S1/2N1/2;**	639.00
sec. 3, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2, and S1/2N1/2;**	638.64
sec. 5, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2, and S1/2N1/2;**	638.80
sec. 7, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;**	625.36
sec. 9;**	640.00
sec. 11;**	640.00
sec. 13;**	640.00
sec. 15;**	640.00
sec. 17;**	640.00
sec. 19, lots 1 and 2, NE1/4, and E1/2NW1/4;**	313.73
sec. 21;**	640.00
sec. 23;**	640.00
sec. 25;**	640.00
sec. 27;**	640.00
sec. 29;**	640.00
sec. 35.**	640.00
<b>T. 33 N., R.12 W.,</b>	
sec. 1, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;**	640.56
sec. 5, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, S1/2N1/2, and S1/2;**	640.60
sec. 7, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;**	638.68
sec. 9; (401-24-001)**	640.00
sec. 17;**	640.00
sec. 19, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;**	640.00
sec. 21; (401-24-001)**	640.00
sec. 27, N1/2NE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, NW1/4, and S1/2;**	600.00
sec. 29;**	640.00
sec. 31, lots 1 to 4, inclusive, E1/2, and E1/2W1/2;**	640.16
sec. 33.**	640.00
<b>T. 33 N., R. 13 W.,</b>	
sec. 9;**	640.00
sec. 11;**	640.00
sec. 13;**	640.00
sec. 15;**	640.00
sec. 21;**	640.00
sec. 23;**	640.00
sec. 25;**	640.00
sec. 27;**	640.00
sec. 29;**	640.00
sec. 33;**	640.00
sec. 35.**	640.00
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>49,807.20</b>

\* (RRG Pat. 1024657 3/20/1929)

\*\* (RRIS Pat. 1031650 10/23/1929)

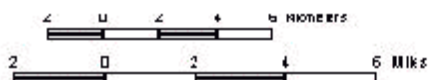




## Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument



Map Scale = 1:250,000



### Legend

- BLM
- Native American
- National Park
- Private
- Nat. Recreation Area
- State
- Grand Canyon - Parashant National Monument (Project Boundary)
- Lands acquired by exchange/donation since 1988
- Mineral estate acquired by exchange since 1988
- Proposed future mineral acquisition
- Proposed Conservation Easement

